

Public Safety Broadband Network Commission  
Department of Public Safety Headquarters, Lab Classroom, Waterbury  
Minutes of Meeting  
July 18, 2017

- Chair, Terry LaValley, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm with the following **Commission members** present: **Barb Neal**, E-911 Board; **Frank Costantino**, Agency of Digital Services; **Chris Herrick**, Department of Public Safety; **Jim Porter**, Public Service (via conference call); **Ken Jones**, ACCD; **Robert T. White**, Agency of Transportation; **Doug Johnston**, Vermont Police Chiefs; **Steve Locke**, Burlington Fire Department; **Ron Kumetz**, Vermont Firefighters Association (via conference call); and also present: **Lisa Helme**, DPS; **Nick Brunelli**, DPS; **Jessica Stolz**, DPS; **Rhonda Camley**, DPS; **Karen Mae Smith**, DPS; **John Quinn**, ADS; **Jared Lamere**, E-911 Board; **Clay Purvis**, Public Service; **Brandon Abley**, Televate; **Rick Burke**, Televate; and members of the public: **Karl Rinker**; **Doug Fellows**; and **Steve Whitaker**.
- **Agenda Review & Minute Approval:** Steve Locke moved to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion seconded by Doug Johnston. Motion carried.

Chris Herrick moved to amend the minutes from the June meeting upon request by member of the public Steve Whitaker as follows: "I hereby request pursuant to Vermont's Open Meeting Law 1 V.S.A. 310 et. Seq. that draft minutes of the June meeting of the PSBC be amended prior to approval to reflect the portion of comments described to include the following as an addition to the public comment section of the minutes. Open meeting law most certainly applies to those sub-committee meetings for which I was verbally assured, as reflected in the draft minutes, that those meetings would be conducted in accordance with Vermont open meeting laws."

Chris Herrick move the minutes then be approved for June with the addition. Motion seconded by Steve Locke. Motion carried.

- **Update from Terry LaValley, FirstNet Single Point of Contact, PSBC Chair**

**Outreach to first responder leaders:** Terry LaValley reported that the leaders of first responder associations have been contacted to update them on the recent developments in the FirstNet project. He also noted that he had been copied on a letter to Governor Phil Scott from the International Association of Fire Chiefs that urged the Governor to opt-in on the FirstNet proposal.

**Review of PSBC evaluation schedule:** Lisa Helme reported on the work of the three SPP evaluation groups. She read the comments of each working group and questions they had regarding the draft state plan. The questions would be sent to FirstNet. The working group comments are affixed to the end of these minutes as an addendum. Terry LaValley summarized that the overall impression of the working groups was that AT&T had not delivered enough information and that the coverage maps appeared to be inaccurate. A

brief discussion followed among members regarding the importance of the LMR system and that FirstNet would not replace two-way radio systems in the near future.

- **Public Comment:** Doug Fellows of Eastern Communications invited members to contact him if they would like to see a demonstration of some of their LTE/LMR embedded systems. Steven Whitaker talked about the commission working groups and noted they were better labeled as sub-committees. He also noted that a 14-hour deployable schedule was unacceptable, noted that a propagation study was needed, talked about the need for Vermont to opt-out, brought up privacy issues, and noted that an RFP for an opt-out plan should be handled by the Agency of Digital Services.
- **Executive Session:** Chris Herrick made the motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing records exempt from the public records act due to their proprietary and/or security nature. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting recessed for five minutes to allow for transition. The meeting went into executive session at approximately 2:15 pm. Meeting resumed at 3:25 pm.
- **General Business:** Terry LaValley invited discussion of whether the commission should release an RFP to receive an alternative plan to the FirstNet proposal. Brief discussion was held. Chris Herrick moved to have the Vermont administrative staff for FirstNet create an RFP for an opt-out solution. Ron Kumetz seconded that motion. Motion carried.
- **Next Commission Meetings:** Terry LaValley asked for discussion regarding whether the commission would like to hold a meeting on July 27 to review a draft of the commission recommendations and final feedback on the draft state plan to FirstNet. It was decided to hold the meeting on July 27 from 9-11 am at DPS HQ in the Emergency Operations Center. The commission will also decide at the July 27 meeting whether the commission meeting scheduled for August 2 should be held. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:40 pm.

ADDENDUM: Reports from the Working Groups.

### **Vermont Draft State Plan Working Groups – Technical**

The meeting took place on Monday, July 17, from 9-11 am at DPS HQ, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor large conference room. We logged into the SPP and looked at the plan as we reviewed the technical aspects during the technical work group meeting.

### **COVERAGE**

#### **Impressions on representation of overall Vermont coverage – CURRENT**

- Year one looks like a marketing map. How can the PSBC make a point of reference to coverage when the point it originates from is not accurate? Coverage looks overstated.
- Like to see coverage maps delivered in a more standardized and quantifiable approach.
- Coverage maps are too vague. No detail at all. It looks like they portray just a boilerplate approach to the breadth of the plan. We want to be able to see the tower locations.

#### **Impressions on representation of overall Vermont coverage – PROJECTED**

- In referencing the build-out of the coverage, the FirstNet plan still neglected coverage in the NE kingdom.
- Concern regarding spectrum use. Saw no advantage to the AT&T existing spectrum being put into use. The edition of Band Class 14 may not result in the more robust coverage suggested in year 5 by the coverage maps.
- Technical Working Group encourages the full commission to explore the possibility of issuing an RFP due to the lack of data and information currently provided to Vermont.

#### **Questions submitted to AT&T**

Question: Do the coverage maps reflect roaming agreements?

Question: Where are the AT&T existing towers today?

Question: 14-hour deployable on-site is too long. What can AT&T do to revise this response and shorten that time limit? Vermont needs a two-hour deployable window.

Question: Is a deployable on-site guaranteed or is it based on the magnitude of the emergency?

Question: When will Vermont see the adoption rates for first responders in this state? What would be the associated penalties with not fulfilling adoption rates in Vermont?

Question: Regarding security and local control, how will that be managed? Will there be multi-factor authentication?

Question: What training will be available to state personnel managing local control to appropriately manage this function?

## **Vermont Draft State Plan Working Groups – Financial & Products**

The meeting was scheduled for: **Monday, July 17, from 2-4 pm, at DPS HQ, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor large conference room**. We logged into the SPP and looked at the plan as we reviewed the financial & products aspects during the financial & products work group meeting.

### **Impressions on WIRELESS RATE PLANS, APPLICATIONS, & BUSINESS OPERATIONS.**

- Need best and final pricing prior to making a recommendation to the Governor. Working group wonders if this is the best and final pricing. Current prices appear higher than what DPS is currently paying.
- More clarity is needed regarding the fee structure for network services, device costs, and all fees associated with roaming away from the network.
- Working group would recommend an unlimited plan as the only option for first responders on the network, no limited data plans. Negotiated rates would be effective for five years and the opportunity to renegotiate pricing would come open at the anniversary of the rate negotiated.
- Working group recommends no first responder contracts for use of service.
- The customer care plan looks promising. Group believes the ability to carry this out is within the ability of a national provider.
- Like the alerting method within the network help function.

### **Questions for FirstNet:**

Question: How are rates negotiated? Will Vermont negotiate one rate for all users on the FirstNet system?

Question: Does the FirstNet pricing structure extend to family and “friends?”

Question: Will FirstNet provide a contract buy-out option for qualified users to switch economically from another carrier to the AT&T system?

Question: Could a pool of minutes be created for the State of Vermont accessible to ALL qualified public safety users on the network, regardless of agency or department?

Question: Please clarify the pricing of satellite services.

## **Vermont Draft State Plan Working Groups – Operations**

The meeting was scheduled for: Tuesday, July 18, from 11 am-12:30 pm, at DPS HQ, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor large conference room. We logged into the SPP and looked at the plan as we reviewed the operations aspects during the operations work group meeting.

### **OPERATIONS**

#### **Impressions on FEATURES and DEVICES.**

- The working group is curious regarding what will happen if FirstNet did not make target dates for introduction of new technologies on the network.
- The working group was encouraged that as FirstNet/AT&T are a single point of contact, there is a direct line of responsibility for ensuring the system works as promised.

#### **Questions for AT&T:**

Question: How will Vermont be able to manage the local control aspects regarding who is allowed on the network and the user categories? How can Vermont pre-test that those local control settings are working as designated PRIOR to an emergency?

Question: How does FirstNet/AT&T plan to handle outages on the network? Timeline for repairs? Upgrades? Introduction of new features?

Question: What are the individual economic costs for a user in a BYOD scenario? Required to pay full costs of a new device? How accommodate the device?

Question: Overall price of plans should be flexible to always reflect the best available price throughout commercial service plans. Will FirstNet/AT&T be able to accommodate this?

END ADDENDUM.